

BANFF PARISH CHURCH

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

(Chorus from Let us build a house where love can dwell)



WHAT TO EXPECT

Sunday Morning Service

We welcome you to Banff Parish Church.

There is no dress code for coming to church so please come and join us as you are.

If you would like transport to and from the church services please contact Ian Cameron (812716) or Ron Smith (815440) to book a seat on the bus.

There is no charge for parking in St Mary's car park on Sundays.

There will be someone at the church door* to welcome you and hand you an order of service. As you enter the church there is an open area before the pews where refreshments are available before and after the service. Please feel free to sit anywhere in church. The Church is completely wheelchair accessible.

*If you would like someone to meet you in the car park please contact the church office (818211) during the week and we can organise a welcomer to meet you before the service.

The following is a guide to what happens during a service:

Bulletin. You will be handed a bulletin as you enter the church. The weekly bulletin includes the order of service, information on activities and church personnel contact details.

Praise/singing is led by our organist and choir. We sing a mix of traditional and modern hymns. The words of hymns/songs are displayed on two large screens at the front of the church. We usually stand to sing (but you are welcome to sit). Sometimes some people clap but please feel free to do whatever you are most comfortable with.

Prayer is an important aspect of what we do and believe as a church. There are usually two prayers during the service. The preacher usually leads the prayer and the congregation is asked to reflect on the words or in the quietness of our own thoughts and heart we can speak to God or just reflect on His amazing love. There is usually an opportunity to say the Lord's prayer aloud, please feel free to join in or not as you wish. A prayer can be requested by adding a leaf to the Prayer Tree in the open space at the back of the Church.

Readings – We usually have two or three readings which are read by volunteers from the congregation. We also occasionally use a video Bible shown on the screens.

Sermon. Services will often address a topic that is relevant to life in our community: Church, local, national or global. The sermon is led by the Preacher and gives us a chance to reflect on thoughts prompted by the prayers, hymns and bible readings earlier in the service. The sermon will call on the teachings of Jesus to guide the congregation in their understanding of, and response to, the topic or issue.

Modern media (videos, slides and pictures) are used in the delivery of the sermon.

Children are very welcome to our services. Karen, our Children and Family worker is usually present to welcome you and offer help. There are children's activities in the hall during the service, please speak to Karen or any church official if you would like your children to go through to the hall. There are a few toys available in the church but if your children have toys they particularly enjoy playing with please bring them along.

You are most welcome to sit together as a family. There is an open area half way down the aisle on the left with space for prams and pushchairs. There is also an open area at the back of the Church.

Offering. An offering is taken up during the service. Elders pass bowls round to collect any donations (cash, cheques or envelopes) the congregation may wish to make. Do not feel obliged to make a donation.

Benediction. After the final hymn the congregation remain standing as the Preacher gives the benediction (a closing blessing) before inviting the congregation to sing the closing 'Amen' which will be displayed on the screens.

At the close of the service the Church Officer carries the Bible and leads the Preacher to the church door before the congregation leave.

You are welcome to join us at the back of the church after the service for a cup of tea/coffee.

For He said 'All those the Father has given me will come to me, and I will never reject them....for it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life.'

Sunday Evening Services

Evening services are held at 6pm in the hall on the first and third Sunday of most months.

These services are very informal and offer an opportunity for discussion and time when we can share our experiences, thoughts and mutual support.

We invite you to come along early for tea/coffee and/or share a cuppa and chat after the service.

